



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
LEADING BOLDLY, WORKING TOGETHER*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Jennifer Jaeger
Community Services Director
City of Rockford Human Services Dept.

815-987-5711

September 22, 2014

Jennifer. jaeger@rockfordil.gov

COMMUNITY ACTION ANNOUNCES 2015 PROGRAM PLANS

Rockford - The City of Rockford Human Services Department, a Community Action Agency, has announced their 2015 proposed plans for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) programs. This proposal is a draft proposal at this time as it will still require Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity approval.

The proposed plan includes a focus on targeted neighborhoods in Boone and Winnebago Counties where programs will be concentrated to increase the impact of the limited CSBG funds. The proposed neighborhood in Winnebago County is the Coronado Haskell neighborhood. Boone County officials will be designating a neighborhood in Belvidere. Within these neighborhoods, Community Action will work to create change by teaching residents to become advocates and create change within their own neighborhoods. The Resident Leadership Academy and Youth Leadership academy are projects that assist residents in identifying and developing needed improvements in their neighborhoods. Some programs will be operated community wide as they have been historically. Below is a list of proposed 2015 programs; neighborhood focused programs are denoted by an asterick.

- Economic Development for the purpose of creating jobs for low-income residents.
- Expansion of the Youth Employment Program so that more youth have the opportunity to learn work skills and senior and disabled homeowners have the opportunity to have work done on their property.
- Scholarships for low-income students for post-secondary education.
- Financial Literacy*

- Energy Conservation Education*
- Emergency Assistance for persons who work and senior/disabled households.
- Summer Food Program
- Community Gardens
- Nutritional Programs*
- Support for Neighborhood Network
- Resident Leadership Academy*
- Youth Leadership Academy*
- Youth and Community Prevention programs

CSBG funds serve persons and households that are very low income. Households must be below 125% of poverty level to qualify for participation. CSBG is funded through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity through funds by the US Department of Health and Human Services.

###